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July 2022

Upcoming Events:

- Aug. 10-12, 2022—
Basic Code Class
- Sept. 13-15, 2022—
OML Conf.
- Sept. 29, 2022—
OCEA Fall Conf.
- Nov. 2-4, 2022—
Basic Code Class

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2022 Fall Educational Conference



Conference Location: Stride Bank Center
Thurs. Sept. 29, 2022
**301 S. Independence Street, Enid,
OK 73701**

Make plans to join us for the OCEA Fall Educational Conference on Sept. 29th! The one-day event will be free for all current OCEA active members. The fee for non-members to attend is \$50. We will send out the registration form in the next week or so. Dealing with Homeless Issues will be a 2-hour session and we are finalizing the other classes for the day. The GLO-Best Western next to the Event Center will have a block of rooms for us for the evening prior to the conference. The hotel rooms are \$89 (King) and \$99 (2-Queen beds). We will post info to our website and it will be emailed to everyone also.

OCEA Code Officer of the Year—Amy Harmon—Seminole



Congrats to Amy Harmon from Seminole on being awarded the Code Officer of the Year award during our Spring Conference.

Amy has worked with different volunteer's to mow properties that the owner's may have a difficult time mowing, which may include senior citizens, single-mothers, and physically disabled citizens. She goes above and beyond to help keep the community clean and safe for all and Seminole and OCEA appreciates all of her hard work!

To show our appreciation, OCEA will be sending Amy to the American Assoc. of Code Enforcement (AACE) Conference in Atlanta this October to represent Oklahoma. We are so fortunate to be able to send our Code Officer of the Year to the national conference every year.

Way to go Amy!

From your President—Maverick Fritsche, City of Okmulgee



Fellow Members,

I hope you are managing this extreme heat! With the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives and with the chaos in the world around us, I hope you all were able to take time out during Memorial Day and July 4th to reflect and honor those who gave up their lives so that we may enjoy the many freedoms we have today. I pray that we do not ever take those freedoms and blessings for granted.

As you know we have a board that is always hard at work getting things ready for this upcoming year, while still performing their respective careers. I know there are many classes, conferences and other activities in the works that will be discussed by your board members in this newsletter as well as future email blasts. They are a hardworking group that has your best interest at heart and I am very blessed to have such a great group to work with. If you need anything, have a question, or just need to visit with someone who has been in your position, we are all here. All of our board member contact information, as well as other OCEA related activities, are located on our website—www.oceassociation.com

Thank you for all you do to keep your communities safe and beautiful! It is an honor to serve this membership.

Shawn “Maverick” Fritsche
OCEA President

From your 1st VP—Travis Guess, City of Prague



Hello to all my Colleagues. I hope that you are enjoying the Summer. With the price of gas and other items high this could cancel some of your plans for traveling. Keep in mind that our great state has so much to offer right here. Places to visit on a budget are Robbers Cave, Little Sahara, or even a municipal lake. The point being there is still fun to be had on a tight budget with friends and family. This can be a busy time as you know just because all of our other duties are weighed down by the “Grass”. According to the weather man help is on the way with intense heat and no rain of any significance although that could cause problems with 4th of July festivities.

Your Board continues to work diligently on your behalf to move the organization in a positive and professional manner. I am proud to be part of this great group of professionals whom without, I truly believe, our organization would not succeed. As your 1st VP, I continue to work on the mission of promoting “Professionalism” and the need for “Safety Measures” in our field. I am representing the “Great State of Oklahoma” by serving as a Board member of the National Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation. We have donated several vests to Officers right here in Oklahoma. If you get an opportunity, please visit the website and subscribe to the “FREE” news letter that has great articles from experts in the field from around the nation and be prepared for an exciting press release coming soon!!! In addition I have helped around 14 municipalities implement and adopt the “International Property Maintenance Code”. If you would like to adopt this in your Community and need assistance, feel free to reach out. Remember any of the Board Members are just a phone call away to assist in any way possible. If you do not ask you’ll never know!!! Please be safe out there and I hope to see you at the “Fall Conference”

From your 2nd VP—Ivan Smith, City of Edmond

Greetings Colleagues ,

Once again, we are in the middle of our busy season. Things are heating up, literally. It's this time of the year that I want to just get through the day with as little complications as possible. What could be complicated about doing Code Enforcement you ask? Where do I start, I say? Things are always more complicated and/or complex than they appear. This is why regardless of how busy we are, sometimes we just need to slow down. We need to slow down and ensure that we are putting the quality of the work that we do over the quantity. This may be hard to sell to the citizen that has called your office more than once in the same week demanding that something be done about whatever it is they are calling about, and maybe even to your supervisors.

Let's not forget about that whole due process thing and the fact that we are required to give the violator an opportunity to voluntarily comply. Granted, due process may look a little different based on the imminent threat to the public health and safety, but due process none-the-less.

Something else that we must take into consideration is the fact that we are ethically responsible to conduct ourselves in a professional manner.

Professionals still make mistakes, if you don't believe that just watch any form of sports that you prefer on television some time. Mistakes are going to happen, but professionals minimize the number of them, sometimes just by slowing down. Remember that a mistake (in our business) can often lead to a lien that can't be collected or a case that gets dismissed. We all work way too hard to see something like that happen. Not to mention it's much harder to explain that mistake to your boss or citizen than to just do it right the first time. Just slow down and breathe. Slow and steady wins the race. Look before you leap. Measure twice and cut once. I think by now you get the point. Don't lose your way in the jungle of another growing season.



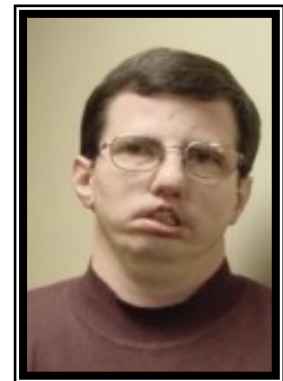
From your Treasurer—Andy Templeton, City of Sand Springs

As treasurer, I am pleased to report that OCEA's balance sheets look very healthy. We have fully funded the Community Improvement Grants for 2022, and we look forward to other beneficial ways to use our resources to benefit our members and their communities.

I hope everyone is enjoying grass season this year. With all the rain we've had, most of us are experiencing a bumper crop of overgrown yards and resulting citizen complaints. I've heard many a violator say they can't mow their yard because it has rained too much. Funny how 99.2% of the other folks in our community can manage to mow their yards between raindrops.

One concerning trend I've also noticed is the number of out-of-state investors buying up properties in my fair city. We've had code enforcement issues with them not maintaining the yards and cleaning up trash. There's an abatement for that ... and we'll gladly turn that \$100 mowing job into a \$500 bill. We've also had building and trade code compliance issues.

In a recent case, the inspections staff and I met with a Tulsa-area investor who somehow gained information on getting wealthy by flipping houses with out-of-state backers. The investor seemed sincere in his lack of knowledge of fundamental code issues and the requirements for using licensed trade contractors. He first complained to senior management that no one wants to work in our town because our inspectors are too picky. That didn't go anyplace. We provided him a list of 300 trade contractors who do work here, and even posted the list on our website for all to view. We had a site meeting with him and his "contractor" who was doing unlicensed trade work not up to code. The investor's eyes got bigger the farther we went into the dilapidated house he bought. We grasped his plight, but we were not going to let his lack of due diligence become our problem. My observation to all is pay attention to what is going on in your community and be prepared to meet issues proactively. We've worked too hard in our profession to become a slum for out-of-state interests.



From your Secretary—Janita Hatley, City of Norman



Greetings fellow OCEA members,

I enjoyed seeing all of you at the Spring Conference. We had 116 in attendance. From looking at the Survey Results, it was obvious that everyone thoroughly enjoyed Tim Sun from California teaching on Officer Safety! We are looking at those survey results as we plan for the upcoming fall conference and for the 2023 Spring conference, and trying to meet your requests. We have been talking with Sequoyah State Park about holding our 2023 Spring Conference there, but with the recent fallout of the BBQ restaurant at all state parks, I'm not sure how well that will work out. Still figuring that out, and will have a location finalized soon with info sent out this fall.

Our August code class filled up quickly! We do have spots open for the November class, so register soon, if you have an Officer that needs to attend. We will announce the 2023 class dates later this year.

Have you renewed your OCEA membership? They expired June 30, 2022. Please see our website for the membership renewal info or contact me if you have questions.

Our 10 Community Improvement Grant Winners announced at our Spring Conference are:

Carter—Fletcher—Geronimo—Hominy—Kansas—Laverne—Lexington—McAlester—Okmulgee—Shidler

Retirement/Departure News:



Our 3rd VP, Doug Moore has just moved out of state to be closer to his family. He is now working for the City of Winston-Salem. We will miss you Doug, but wish you all the best .

We will be accepting entries from OCEA members interested in the 3rd VP board position due to Doug's departure. Be looking for info from the Board soon about this. If interested, we will ask you to submit info to Janita and the Board will vote on this soon.



Our Past President, Felix Nance has just retired from Code Enforcement. He will still be active in Emergency Management for Hominy, and we may see him at our events from time-to-time. Felix, we Thank You for your contribution to OCEA and to the Code Enforcement profession. Your idea to begin the Community Improvement Grant Program was fabulous and we hope to continue this program and honor your legacy for years to come. Best wishes on your Retirement Friend!!

Info from Kevin McCullough—OMAG



OMAG has partnered with CLEET to provide a new regional supervisor course, Supervising with Purpose. The training is a two-day course developed and presented by CLEET Assistant Director Earl Morrison. Although this course is attended mostly by law enforcement, the training is beneficial for anyone in a leadership, management, or supervisory role. Let's hear what some recent participants have to say about the course.

The Supervising with Purpose course is currently being offered in all areas of the state and is approved by CLEET for 16 hours of continuing education. To learn about Supervising with Purpose, available dates, and to register for the course, go to CLEET's website or email OMAG's Law Enforcement Specialist, Kevin McCullough at kmccullough@omag.org. You can also see when Supervising with Purpose is being offered in your area by referring to the list below.

You can learn more about OMAG's other Law Enforcement resources, Free Services, Publications, and much more, by checking out OMAG's calendar at WWW.OMAG.ORG.

Supervising with Purpose dates and locations:

July 13 & 14, 2022 – Marietta, OK

August 2 & 3, 2022 – Durant, OK

August 25 & 26, 2022 – Lawton, OK

September 22 & 23, 2022 – Shawnee, OK

September 27 & 28, 2022 – Elk City, OK

October 6 & 7, 2022 – Glenpool, OK

November 8 & 9, 2022 – Stillwater, OK

December 13 & 14, 2022 – Ponca City, OK

Don't forget that OMAG offers scholarships for all of OCEA's Basic Code Certification Classes and to our Conferences.

Please contact Kevin McCullough to learn more at -

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Founded in 1994, the Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association is dedicated to the study and advancement of Code Enforcement activities at the local, county and state levels. Its membership represents both large cities and small towns that have an interest in enhancing neighborhood and community health, safety, welfare and aesthetics.

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AACE—American Association of Code Enforcement

- ◆ AACE is doing several national check-ins to ensure we are providing our members the best possible service. We learn so much from these check-ins and have enjoyed networking during these video calls.

The dates are listed below:

Thursday, August 4, 2022, 3 pm CST

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 3 pm CST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81482403579#success>

- ◆ 33rd Annual AACE Conference—October 18-20, 2022 in Atlanta, GA. Visit www.aace1.org for more details.
- ◆ Before/After Competition— Submit before/after photos by July 15th and a description of a project you completed in your community and if you are selected the winner, you might just get a free registration to the AACE Conference. Submit entries to Barbara Burlingame- AACE President at Barbara.burlingame@normanok.gov
- ◆ Interested in running for AACE Office? 1st VP and Sgt-at-Arms positions are open. AACE just sent out info to everyone about this. Let me know if you do not receive the AACE emails. There are many opportunities to serve on several AACE Committee's which is a great place to start and let your voices be heard.

Tidbits from Janita:

Please send me photos, funny or interesting stories from some case that you've worked, or a Before/After from a case that you've worked and I will add them to the newsletter. Our members would really enjoy seeing things from fellow OCEA members across the State.

You can email your newsletter submissions to me at Janita.hatley@normanok.gov and you can call me at (405)623-8009 or in my office at (405) 366-5318.

Thankful for our Partners/Friends



OMAG



AACE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

**OKLAHOMA
MUNICIPAL
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The Unified Voice of Oklahoma Cities and Towns